LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938.

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

The figures upon which the various Statistics are calculated for the District are as follows :—

Estimated Population 1938	7721
Estimated Population 1937	7726
Area of District in Acres	3029
Number of Inhabited Houses in 1938	2140
Rateable Value	£35,614
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£143

During 1938 no change took place in the industries of the District. As in the past, brickmaking remains the principle industry, with the preparation of canned fruits and vegetables and engineering as subsidiaries. In addition to these there are seasonal industries in the manufacture of sauces, and sugar from sugar beet.

All these industries are carried out in an up-to-date manner, and the various firms take ample precaution for the welfare and safety of their employees.

During the year all these industries have been working at high pressure, with the result that there has been little unemployment in the district.

Vital Statistics.

	1938		1937	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Male	Female
Legitimate	52	58	61	58
Illegitimate	3	4	5	2
	117		126	
STILL BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	0	3	0
Illegitimate	0	1	0	0
	2		3	
DEATHS.	Male	Female	Male	Female
	38	31	49	45
	69		94	

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.15
Still Births.	
Rate per 1.000 total (live and still) births	.26
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.65

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	None
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	1
TOTAL	1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :—

All infants per 1,000 live births			34.3
	Males	Females	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	3	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			None
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1 Female		1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			None

COMPARISON WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY FOR 1938.

	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality
Fletton	15.15	.26	9.65	34.3
London (Administrative County)	13.4	.48	11.4	57.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	15.0	.65	11.7	57.0
148 Smaller Towns	15.4	.60	11.0	51.0
England and Wales	15.1	.60	11.6	53.0

From these figures it will be seen that the Birth and Death Rate for Fletton compare favourably with those for the rest of the country.

Causes of Infant Mortality.

Malnutrition	1
Injury at Birth	1
Pneumonia	1
Meningitis	1
TOTAL	4

Number of Deaths at all Ages and Causes with Comparison for 1937.

	1939 Male	1939 Female	1938 Total	1937 Total
Whooping Cough	0	1	1	0
Diphtheria	1	0	1	2
Influenza	3	0	3	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	3	4	3
Other Tubercular Diseases	0	1	1	1
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	4	3	7	11
Diabetes	0	0	0	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	0	2	4
Heart Disease	8	8	16	19
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	2	5	6
Bronchitis	0	2	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	0	2	5
Peptic Ulcer	0	0	0	2
Appendicitis	0	0	0	2
Cirrhosis of the Liver	0	0	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	0	0	0	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	2	5	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0	0
Other Puerperal Diseases	0	1	1	0
Congenital Debility	1	2	3	9
Senility	4	3	7	2
Suicide	1	1	2	0
Deaths from Violence	0	1	1	6
Other Defined Diseases	3	1	4	8
Ill defined or not known	2	0	2	1
	38	31	69	93

Notifiable Diseases.

	1938	1937
Diphtheria	14	60
Scarlet Fever	3	6
Pneumonia	9	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Erysipelas	2	1

From the above figures it will be seen that there were 14 cases of Diphtheria. All these, with the exception of one case, occurred during the first two months of the year, and were the continuance of the outbreak of the last two months of 1937. Opportunities were given for inoculation of children with Alum precipitated Toxin, and the

majority of the children of school age on the district were inoculated by the two stage method. The fact that the outbreak subsided very shortly after these steps were taken, seems to have justified the action.

As in the past, cases of Tuberculosis or suspected Tuberculosis were seen by the County Tubercular Officer and his Staff.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
Ages under	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*
0								
1								
5								
10								
15				1				
20	2			1				1
25		1				2		
35		1	1					
45		1				1		
55					1			
65 and upwards	1							
TOTAL	3	3	1	2	1	3		1

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

No alteration of note has taken place in the Health Services of the District during the year. The treatment of Zymotic diseases is carried out at the Sanatorium at Huntingdon, and has been found to be adequate for the needs of the district.

Bulletins regarding the condition of the patients are posted daily at the Council Offices at Old Fletton.

Cases of Tubercular disease are treated under the supervision of the County Tubercular Officer and his Staff. Any case which is found requiring special Institutional treatment is afforded the appropriate treatment.

The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the greater part of the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment for General Medical or Surgical cases are available. There is also attached to the Staff an Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dental Surgeon, Opthalmologist, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, Radiologist and Pathologist.

There is also a special Fracture Clinic attached to the Hospital.

The Orthopaedic work is carried out by the Staff of Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital under the supervision of Dr. Wilson Stuart and Dr. Dockerill.

Facilities for carrying out their instructions regarding massage and exercise are available at the Hospital.

The Ante and Post Natal Services instituted by the County Council have been responsible for much excellent work. Expectant mothers under this Scheme are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if the case requires closer attention), and once after the confinement. The small incidence of Puerperal Diseases in the district during the year is a tribute to the usefulness of this Service.

Provision is made for the reception of Maternity cases into the Hospital at Huntingdon, where home surroundings are not suitable for the management.

Cases which present any complication are received in Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

Infant Welfare work in the district is carried out by the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Infant Welfare Association at their Clinic in London Road. The Infant Welfare Clinic meet every Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a Toddler's Clinic for children from 2 to 5 which meets once a month on the first Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

It will be seen that facilities are available by the use of these 2 services for the supervision of the child's health from birth until the time that it attends school.

The School Medical Officer and his Staff are responsible for the supervision of children of school age, and apart from routine examination of children, Dental, Opthalmic and Orthopaedic treatment are also arranged for any cases requiring them.

Cases of Venereal Disease are treated by Dr. Rolleston at the Peterborough Clinic, and arrangements can also be made for patients to be treated privately.

Ambulances.

Ambulances for the use of accident and non-infectious cases are available at Peterborough and the London Brick Company. The Hunts County Council provide ambulances for the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital.

District Nursing.

Nursing in the district is carried on by the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Nursing Association under the supervision of the County Medical Officer. 2 fully qualified nurses, both of whom are certified midwives, are employed. They carry on the general nursing of the district, and also attend the majority of Maternity cases. They also carry out the duties of nurse at the Infant Welfare and Toddlers' Clinics, and act as Health visitors.

Housing.

With regard to the Housing in the district and the inspection and control thereof, the tables for these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Housing has improved considerably during the year. 44 houses were erected by private enterprise, none by the Council.

Steps were taken during the year by the Council to have 3 areas defined as Clearance Areas under the Housing Act of 1936. These areas refer to Caravan sites in the district, and it is hoped that in the near future, these nuisances will be obviated by this means.

I must again tender my thanks to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ashcroft, and to Mr. Clarke, the Clerk to the Council, whose invaluable assistance has been readily given on every occasion.

In tendering this, my last report as Medical Officer of Health to Fletton Council, may I add how pleasurable the work has been rendered by the co-operation of the members of the Council and their Staff.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

JOHN E. ALLAN,

M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.

Council Offices,
High Street,
Old Fletton,
4th April 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Old Fletton.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1938.

Number of Inspections	387
Number of re-Inspections	65
Number of other visits	15
Number of Informal Notices served	87
Number of Statutory Notices served	46
Number of Letters sent	373
Number of Complaints received	150

Infectious Diseases.

I have investigated the following 14 cases of infectious diseases.

Scarlet Fever	3
Diphtheria	11

All rooms occupied by patients suffering from Infectious Diseases have been promptly and efficiently fumigated.

Disinfestation.

I have disinfected 4 houses for bugs etc. The fumigation being carried out by Lawes Block Disinfectors and with every success.

In addition to the above 4 houses 19 of our own Council Houses have been fumigated upon change of tenancy, also 2 schools have been disinfected.

Scavenging.

The total number of houses that are scavenged being 2,125 and made up as follows :—

Fletton Ward	839
Woodston Ward	689
Stanground Ward	597

The whole of the houses within the district being scavenged except 15 scattered farms, and three Caravan sites in Coneygree Road. The system is a weekly collection with the exception of Whittlesey Road and Peterborough Road houses, these having a fortnightly collection. I have received no complaints that the collection is not satisfactory. The work is carried out by direct labour, and as regards the collection with credit to the staff. One Karrier Motor with a capacity of 6 cubic yards and three men operating the system. Approximately 2,200 tons of household refuse is dealt with annually. All sanitary ash-tins are disinfected with powder when emptied. I regret to state that the present system of disposal is most insanitary, namely, the dumping into a deep water logged knot hole, but I am pleased to know that the Council are strongly considering the buying of suitable land for the modern method of Controlled Tipping. I expect this to be in hand next year.

The yearly cost of this undertaking is as follows :—

Net cost per 1,000 of population	£92
Cost per ton, Collection and Disposal	6s. $2\frac{3}{4}$d.

This amount is in keeping with the cost of other Urban Authorities.

Number of houses provided during the year with new Sanitary Dust-Bins replacing worn out receptacles total 79.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the houses in the district are on the water carriage system. A vast number of houses have W.C's without flushing cisterns. Where possible steps are being taken to force owners to provide and fix proper flushing cisterns.

Number of new W.C's rected	14
(This figure does not include the W.C's provided to new houses).	
Number of Pails or Privies converted to W.C's.	8
Number of new Flushing Cisterns	23
Number of new W.C. Pans	11

Factories Act, 1937.

Under this heading we have on our register, 27 factories with mechanical power, 5 without mechanical power.

The Urban District duties under this New Act being briefly as follows :—

1. Keep a register of all factories.
2. To ascertain that sufficient and suitable Sanitary Conveniences are provided and maintained, with proper separation for each sex.
3. Effective provision for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature.
4. Ventilation.
5. Means of escape in case of Fire.

In pursuance of the Provisions of Section 34 (1) of the above Act, one certificate was issued certifying that the factory concerned had adequate means of escape in case of fire.

During next year inspections will take place with a view to ascertain that all requirements of the Act are complied with.

Bakehouses.

We have three bakehouses on our register. These were inspected during the year and the following defects found :— ,

Defective floors.
Defective walls.
Defective ceilings.
Inefficient ventilation.

Notices under Section 157 and the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937 have been served to remedy the sanitary defects.

Housing Statistics.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	152
Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Act of 1936	53
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	53
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	99
Number of notices served under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	3
Number of Notices served under Section II, Housing Act, 1936	6
Number of Clearance Orders under Section 25 and 26	3
Number of dwelling houses included in the orders	48
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
Number rendered fit	18

Housing Act, 1936, Clearance Area's.

During the year we have submitted to the Ministry of Health resolutions by the Council declaring three area's so defined to be clearance area's. These area's refer to the Caravan sites situated Coneygree Road.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk supply—Action taken with regard to :—

The Milk and Dairies Orders. The following samples of milk were taken and subjected to the MINIT SEDIMENT TEST for dirt with the following results :—

No. of samples taken	8
No. of samples found to be clean	7
No. of samples found to be slightly contaminated	1

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

No samples were submitted during the year.

Slaughter Houses and Inspections.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 :—

17 licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

We have 4 registered slaughter-houses and two in very good order. It is the Council's intention to adopt Byelaws and have all slaughterhouses brought up to standard. During the year 30 inspections were made and the following amount of meat surrendered as unfit for food for human consumption.

One Fore Quarter of Beef.
Head.
Liver.
Lungs.

Water Supply.

Within my knowledge the public health has in no way suffered by the existing water supply in the area.

The supply is controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests. I hold copies of recent analysis.

Other Sanitary Defects dealt with.

Defective roofs.
Defective floors.
Defective Closet Pails.
Dampness.
Want of Ashtins.
Yard Paving.
Ventilation.
Insanitary Drainage.
Defective sink waste pipes.
Un-ventilated and badly lighted food stores.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. ASHCROFT,

Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Old Fletton.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1938 and other work.

Number of new houses erected during the year	44
Number erected by the Council	0
Number erected by private enterprise	44

(Fletton 28, Stanground 13, Woodston 3).

Temporary Buildings.

Number of erections during the year	30

During the year Contractors have been notified that all houses must be built to plan and also to the requirements of the Town Planning Authority. A notice was also published in the local papers drawing the attention of persons concerned about the erecting of buildings, especially wooden erections without first obtaining permission.

Water Undertaking.

During the year a new 4" cast iron main was laid practically the whole length of North Street, Stanground.

The London Road Council Houses have had a new 2" main laid.

Additional number of houses supplied during the year 44.

Number of bursts repaired, 24.

Approximate number of gallons consumed during the year 65,732,00.

Sewers and Sewerage Disposal.

During the year the commencement and completion of the 45" Relief sewer was carried out.

A length of sewer was also laid on the Whittlesey Road.

Several houses within the Borough and known as the Shortacres Estate have been allowed to connect to our High Street Sewer.

The Pumping Station and Disposal Works have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Additional number of houses connected during the year 44.

Recreation Grounds.

The Council provide and maintain 5 Recreation Grounds, totalling about 10 acres. During the year additional Round-abouts have been provided, also extra seats.

Allotments.

The Council have 30 acres of land set off as allotments. The annual inspection took place during August and very little fault was found.

Yours obediently,

T. ASHCROFT,

Surveyor.

INFANT WELFARE REPORT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1938.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the 23rd Annual Report of the Fletton Infant Welfare Centre.

The Statistics for comparison with those of the previous year are :—

	1938	1937
No. of New Cases	159	146
No. of Sessions	48	48
No. of Attendances	3396	2498
No. on Register	286	266

Age Groups of New Children.

Under 3 months	118
Over 3 months and under 12 months	26
Over 12 months	15
TOTAL	159

No. of New Children Breast-Fed only	81
No. of Children Breast-Fed and Artificially Fed	8
No. of Children Artificially Fed only	70
TOTAL	159

Of the 159 new children attending, 147 were healthy.

On examination of the children during the year, the following ailments and defects were found and advice as to treatment given.

Summary.

1.	Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	
	Bronchial Catarrh	8
	Bronchitis	5
	Nasal Catarrh	2
2.	Diseases of Alimentary Canal.	
	Constipation	18
	Indigestion	6
	Gastro-Enteritis	9
	Gastric Influenza	2
	Gastritis	2
	Colic	2
	Diarrhoea	2
3.	Diseases of the Mouth.	
	Stomatitis	2
	Thrush (before or after admission)	54
	Pharyngitis	2
	Catarrh of Throat	2
4.	Diseases of the Ear.	
	Catarrh of Eustachian tube	1
	Otitis Media	3
5.	Diseases of the Eye.	
	Ptosis	1
	Ophthalmia	1
	Opthalmia Neonatorum	1
	Stye	1
6.	Diseases of the Skin.	
	Impetigo	2
	Urticaria	4
	Scalding	15
	Septic Spots	1
	Allergic Rash	2
	Seborrhoea	3
	Chicken Pox	1
	Scabies	1
	Eczema	2
	Blood blister	1
	Furunculosis	2
7.	Congenital Defects.	
	Phimosis	48
	Torticollis	1
	Tongue-Tied	11
	Umbilical Hernia	13
	Septic Umbilicus	1
	Naevus	1
8.	Other Diseases.	
	Anaemia	8
	Rickets	4
	Mastitis	1
	Enlarged Tonsils	1
	Coryza	5
	Enlarged Cervical Glands	1
	TOTAL	253

Vital Statistics.

	1938	1937
No. of Births : Males	55	66
Females	62	50
TOTAL	117	126
No. of Deaths under 1 Year	4	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	15.15	16.3
Infant Mortality	34.3	95.2

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year due to :—	
Malnutrition	1
Injury at Birth	1
Pneumonia	1
Meningitis	1
TOTAL	4

During 1938 the number of new cases increased a little, but what was much more gratifying was to find that the total attendances made by all the children had increased by nearly 33%.

The majority of the new children were healthy and of a good physical standard, and although the list of diseases found appear rather formidable, with one or two exceptions, they were of a minor character, and disappeared on the application of suitable treatment.

The proportion of breast-fed children continues to be very satisfactory, and is a matter for favourable comment, since present day tendencies are against the continuance of breast feeding.

Toddler's Clinic.

	1938	1937
Total Attendances	182	177
No. of Sessions	12	12
No. of Individuals attending	44	57

The attendances at the Toddler's Clinic during the year remain much on the same level as in 1937, while there were some 13 fewer individual children in attendance.

While many of the mothers bring the children along with great regularity, it is to be regretted that others only attend when there is need for advice or treatment to the children.

Of the new children examined at the Clinic, the majority were found to be healthy, and during the year, the following defects were noted and suitable advice given as to their remedy.

Dental Caries	1
Anaemia	3
Bronchial Catarrh	1
Otitis Media	1
Deformity of Knee Joint	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	1
Gastritis	1
Phimosis	1
Tabes Mesenterica	1
Anorexia	1
Bronchitis	1
TOTAL	13

Ante Natal Clinic.

	1938	1937
Total Attendances	52	61
No. of Sessions	12	12
No. of Individuals attending	20	28

During the year there was a considerable decrease in the attendances at the Ante Natal Clinic. This of course, is to be expected as a result of the Ante Natal Scheme of the Hunts. County Council.

By this Scheme, facilities are available for Ante Natal work to be undertaken at a patient's own home, and under circumstances which it can readily be understood, are more acceptable to the expectant mother.

In view of this, the position of the Ante Natal Clinic, should be reviewed and if it is considered redundant, steps should be taken to discontinue it.

I cannot close my report without again offering my grateful thanks to all those voluntary workers, whose efficient services, readily and willingly given, make the work of the Infant Welfare Centre so successful and so pleasant.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

JOHN E. ALLAN,

M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.